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Game of Chess

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WASHINGTON—White House braintrusters are being moved about like chess pieces in an effort to bring order out of the chaotic administration of our Latin American policy.



There's been a widespread feeling that President Kennedy has too many people working on the problem. Net effect of the changes will be to diminish by two men the impressive array of talent who have been stumbling all over themselves.

Appointment of Robert F. Woodward as assistant secretary of state for Latin American affairs was the necessary first move. The theory is that he will become the central clearing house for ideas about Latin America, but whether this will work out in practice remains to be seen.

After Woodward is settled down, Adolph A. Berle, the President's special assistant on Latin American affairs, will return to private life.

Arthur M. Schlesinger Jr. will be eased over to other duties as the White House's general handy man. This will leave presidential assistant Richard N. Goodwin, 29, a campaign speech writer, as the only survivor of the existing special White House team still assigned to Latin American affairs. Of course, national security advisers McGeorge Bundy and Walt W. Rostow will be on tap for assistance at any time.

One of those most pleased by the changes is Secretary of State Dean Rusk, who at times during the Berle-Schlesinger-Goodwin regime had trouble figuring out what Latin American move was

Thorny Problem

Meanwhile, back at the rumor mill, the administration is said to be having a time of it figuring a way to ease CIA Chief Allen W. Dulles out of his job. He has been intending to quit late this year, but the Cuban fiasco would make it look as if he were being fired. Dulles has had a long and distinguished government career, and the White House is now seeking some way of rewarding him for his services while at the same time not making it look as if he's the fall guy for the Cuban failure.

Ingenious Plan

The new team over at the Pentagon is fanatical on the subject of civilian control of the military. It takes a jaundiced view of generals and admirals who, members of the New Frontier think, are too parochial in outlook and have too many vested interests in their own branches of service. One jokester suggested that the elimination of generals and admirals might be the answer to the problem. His own ingenious solution

would be to allow no promotions above the rank of lieutenant colonel (or in the Navy, commander) until the officer had worked his way up from second lieutenant and ensign in every service. By the time he was ready to become an admiral or general, he would be ready for retirement.

Name of this plan? Operation Treadmill.

Poor Children

Some people think Congress may be going to extremes to protect our wildlife. Sen. Allen J. Ellender, D-La., has introduced a bill to "prevent the introduction and spread of diseases dangerous to the adult honeybee." The question now seems to be: What is to be done about protecting the young ones? Presumably would be left exposed to

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all the customary honeybee childhood diseases while their parents would be protected by law.

Seems to us Nikita was right the first time.

Right First Time

Many a truth, the sages have often noted, can be gleaned from slips of the tongue. Not immune to such slips was Nikita Sergeevich Khrushchev. He was recently speaking at a Soviet-North Vietnam friendship meeting in Moscow, welcoming the arrival of Comrade Pham Van Dong, premier of communist-held North Vietnam. Referring to the guerrilla war now going on in South Vietnam, Khrushchev said over Radio Moscow: "The struggle of the people in South Vietnam is the handiwork of Moscow—er, er—the struggle of the people of South Vietnam is NOT the handiwork of Moscow . . ."

Old Jokesters

In addition to claiming that many inventions credited to Americans were really Russian "firsts," the Soviet Union is now stealing our jokes. White House press secretary Pierre Salinger recently entertained at his home Alexei Adzhubei, Premier Khrushchev's son-in-law and editor of the official newspaper Izvestia. After almost 11 hours under the spell of Salinger hospitality, Adzhubei loosened up and told Salinger the current favorite among men's locker room stories in Moscow. It turned out to be an old American oldie, circa 1935.

'Outs,' 'Ins'

Two "Outs" were discussing the "Ins" the other day. They were, respectively, a Republican who served in the last administration and a Democrat who failed to get a job in this one.

"Trouble with the New Frontier is that everyone reports directly to the President," said the Republican Out. "He can't possibly digest all the advice he gets."

"Trouble with you Eisenhower guys is that no one knew which President to report to—Ike, Sherman, George Humphrey or Bob Anderson," replied the Democratic Out.